



US009762636B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Price

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,762,636 B2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 12, 2017**

(54) **STREAMING MEDIA DELIVERY SYSTEM**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **15/283,544**

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(22) Filed: **Oct. 3, 2016**

IPR2015-01035 Decision Denying Institution, dated Oct. 23, 2015.
(Continued)

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2017/0026434 A1 Jan. 26, 2017

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 13/815,040, filed on
Jan. 25, 2013, which is a continuation of application
(Continued)

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 15/16 (2006.01)
H04L 29/06 (2006.01)
(Continued)

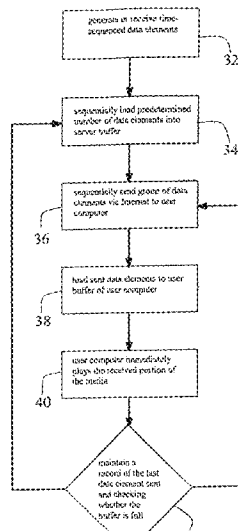
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Streaming media, such as audio or video files, is sent via the Internet. The media are immediately played on a user's computer. Audio/video data is transmitted from the server under control of a transport mechanism. A server buffer is prefilled with a predetermined amount of the audio/video data. When the transport mechanism causes data to be sent to the user's computer, it is sent more rapidly than it is played out by the user system. The audio/video data in the user buffer accumulates; and interruptions in playback as well as temporary modem delays are avoided.

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **H04L 65/4076** (2013.01); **H04L 29/06027**
(2013.01); **H04L 29/06455** (2013.01);
(Continued)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC H04L 65/80; H04L 65/4076; H04L 49/90;
H04L 49/901; H04L 49/9084; H04N
21/23406; H04N 21/23805; H04N
21/2407
(Continued)

12 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



Related U.S. Application Data

No. 13/385,375, filed on Feb. 16, 2012, now Pat. No. 8,364,839, which is a continuation of application No. 12/800,177, filed on May 10, 2010, now Pat. No. 8,185,611, which is a continuation of application No. 10/893,814, filed on Jul. 19, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,716,358, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/819,337, filed on Mar. 28, 2001, now Pat. No. 6,766,376.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/231,997, filed on Sep. 12, 2000.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

H04L 12/861 (2013.01)
H04L 12/879 (2013.01)
H04N 21/234 (2011.01)
H04N 21/238 (2011.01)
H04N 21/24 (2011.01)
H04N 21/44 (2011.01)
H04N 21/61 (2011.01)
H04N 21/647 (2011.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC *H04L 49/90* (2013.01); *H04L 49/901* (2013.01); *H04L 49/9084* (2013.01); *H04L 65/4084* (2013.01); *H04L 65/80* (2013.01); *H04L 69/16* (2013.01); *H04N 21/23406* (2013.01); *H04N 21/23805* (2013.01); *H04N 21/2407* (2013.01); *H04N 21/44004* (2013.01); *H04N 21/6125* (2013.01); *H04N 21/64776* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC 709/203, 204, 217, 219, 223
 See application file for complete search history.

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